

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-20 L-03 AGR-20

DRC-01 HEW-08 /171 W

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R 030435Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TU, IR

SUBJ: TURKISH-IRANIAN DIFFERENCES ON OPIUM POPPIES

REF:A. STATE 42282; B. TEHRAN 1961

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR GHARIB IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER DECRIED STATEMENT BY TURK MIN AGRICULTURE AND WHAT HE CONSIDERED OTHER INDICATIONS THAT GOT WAS PLANNING TO RESUME OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION. WHEN INFORMED THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD USG NO DECISION MADE TO RESCIND POPPY BAN, GHARIB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LEGAL PLANTING WOULD BEGIN THE FALL OF 1974. HE SAID THAT TURKISH OPIUM CONTINUED TO BE SMUGGLED INTO IRAN, MUCH TO THE DETRIMENT OF HIS COUNTRY'S YOUTH; WHETHER THIS CAME FROM LEFTOVER STOCKS OR ILLICIT PRODUCTION, HE WAS NOT SURE. HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT TURKEY WAS SECOND TO AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPLYING ILLEGAL OPIUM TO IRAN, ACCOUNTING FOR 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL SUPPLY. GHARIB SAID THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO IRAN TO PREPARE
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FOR GUNES' APRIL 3-4 RCD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND

APRIL 5-6 OFFICIAL VISIT, AND WOULD DISCUSS THE OPIUM QUESTION WITH THE IRANINIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: (A) GHARIB DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE HAS SO FAR MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOT, AS REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY (REF B); (B) SHOULD GOI FIND OPPORTUNITY RAISE SUBJECT WITH TURK FONMIN GUNES, WHO SCHEDULED DEPART APRIL 2 FOR TEHRAN, THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL; (C) TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO ILLICIT PRODUCTION IN TURKEY SINCE POPPY BAN TOOK EFFECT IN 1972, SO ANY CURRENT LEAKAGE TURKISH OPIUM TO IRAN WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE FROM LEFTOVER STOCKS.
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